(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when permission will be accorded to Chhattisgarh Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested Airports Authority of India (AAI) for allotment of 9010 square meters of land at Mana Airport for construction of Hangar, Taxi-track, VIP Lounge etc. at their own expenditure. AAI is processing the proposal and permission is likely to be accorded in due course.

Recommendations of Kelkar Committee

4242. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee's recommendations to provide sufficient funds for fleet expansion was approved by the Cabinet in 2000 but not implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recommendations made by various committees on the safety of aircrafts have been implemented *into to*; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmaship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, the then Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to look into the reasons for losses in Indian Airlines and to develop strategies in the context of competitive market environment. The Committee, *inter-alia*, recommended financial restructuring of Indian Airlines which included financial support of Rs. 475 crores by the Government in the form of subordinated loan for Rs. 150 crores, equity infusion to the extent of Rs. 125 crores and payment of Rs. 200 crore as compensation for the decisions taken by the Government that affected the financial performance of Indian Airlines.

As part of the implementation of the Kelkar Committee recommendations, it was decided by Government in May, 1999 to infuse Rs. 325 crores as equity in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircraft. The fund could not, however, be released due to ongoing process of disinvestment in the company.

In October, 2001 Indian Airlines was asked to formulate proposal for acquisition of fleet, so that release of Rs. 325 crores could be considered as and when Government takes a final view on the proposal of Indian Airlines.

(c) and (d) During the last three years Government had appointed three Courts/Committees of Inquiry on the aircraft accidents. These Committee have made 76 safety related recommendations out of which 25 recommendations have since been implemented. The rest of the recommendations are also in the process of implementation. However, some of these recommendations being long term in nature it would not be possible to indicate a time-frame for their implementation.

Safety norms at IGIA

4243. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi has been found to be flouting safety norms prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisations;

(b) if so, whether according to the ICAO guidelines, IGI Airport falls in category 9 to maintain basic safety norms in terms of maintaining the fire and ambulance services at the airport;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being considered by Government to take safety measures in the IGI Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi falls in category 9 which is the highest category of fire and safety services required to be provided for the existing largest commercial aircraft operating at the airport. In pursuance of these guidelines of the ICAO, basic safety norms in terms of maintaining fire services are being maintained at IGI Airport. There are no guidelines prescribed by ICAO to maintain ambulance services at the airport. However, four ambulances are being maintained at IGI Airport.

(d) All safety measures, as per guidelines of the ICAO, are implemented at IGI Airport.